



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takaai ENOMOTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3661

Application No.: 10/656,193

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Filed: September 8, 2003

Docket No.: 117027

For: VEHICLE OCCUPANT PROTECTION APPARATUS

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 28, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species 1, claims 1 and 6-7 (Fig. 2), drawn to adjusting seat belt tension based on predicted crash and the status of the occupants (driver or passenger), with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-7 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Kurt P. Goudy  
Registration No. 52,954

JAO:KPG/tea

Date: March 25, 2005

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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